



Fw: Why I Urge You to Vote Against the Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project

Debbie Arnold to: Ramona Hedges

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Sent by: **Jennifer Caffee**

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----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 02/04/2016 01:30 PM -----

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Subject: Why I Urge You to Vote Against the Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project

Mona Pastor

1309 22nd Street

Oceano, CA 93445

January 30, 2016

Supervisor Lynn Compton, et al.

*Room D-430
County Government Center
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408*

Dear Supervisor Compton:

I am writing to you as my local voice in County Government, and copying other San Luis Obispo Supervisors, on the important issue of the Phillips 66 Proposal to build a railroad spur at their Nipomo Refinery. For public health and safety reasons I am definitely opposed to this proposal. Should this come to a vote of our SLO County Supervisors, I urge you to vote against this expansion of the refinery that would allow Phillips66 to transport millions of gallons of flammable crude tar sand liquids via diesel train through our county neighborhoods, towns and agricultural fields.

I live 0.7 mile from the railroad crossing on 22nd St. but 88% of my Oceano neighbors also live within the one mile evacuation zone, should a derailment occur. Many of these families live within a couple blocks of the railroad tracks. Their homes are in the area that could be burned by a derailment's explosion. This is not an issue of NIMBY, for over 95,000 SLO County residents live within that one mile blast/evacuation zone, or 35% of all residents.

Looking at specific county cities the rates of population living in that zone go from 37% to 100%: Grover Beach (76%), Pismo Beach (37%) and San Luis Obispo (71%). In North County there are also high rates of neighborhoods within the blast/evacuation zone: Paso Robles (45%), Atascadero (52%), Templeton (63%) and Santa Margarita (100%). Towns such as Arroyo Grande with fewer residences in that zone have valuable commercial and tourist districts that would suffer with the decrease in our air quality.

This proposal affects all of us in SLO County. Especially since many schools are in the blast/evacuation zone, and all of our hospitals and trauma centers are near the railroad tracks. In the event of a derailment anywhere in the county, there is a possibility that trauma care could be compromised by the explosion and resulting fire.

Over 500 Oceano residents live in densely laid out mobile home communities situated ¼ mile from the tracks. Our school, library branch, Boys and Girls Club, churches, market and proposed CHC Health Care Offices are also within half a mile of the tracks. A derailment on one of the curves in my Oceano area, or over the poorly maintained 22nd Street bridge R.R. crossing could set up an explosion of black clouds over 300 feet high, jeopardizing lives and property, and endangering our communities' water supply (our OCSD wells, pumping equipment and offices are blocks from the tracks).

A derailment could also cause toxic waste to seep through the sandy fill soils of the neighboring fields contaminating our actual sources of water. We need water daily. The repair of vital equipment could take much time and have to be paid for by County funds, since corporate reimbursement to individuals, businesses and governments often takes years after an oil spill or train derailment. (The oil train derailment in Lac Magentic, Quebec, happened in mid-2013 and no compensation was received until mid-2015.)

Even if there were to be no catastrophic derailment, our air quality would suffer due to the particulates released by the trains: 1) each tanker has an outlet valve that releases particulates from all 100 cars and 2) the double diesels hauling each of the heavily laden mile-long trains will pour out diesel particulates.

This degradation of our atmosphere will cause more cases of asthma and other chronic lung disease to our children and seniors. It will also make our beautiful towns less attractive to the thousands of tourists who visit SLO County's beaches, wineries and shops.

We have almost a 49% home ownership rate in Oceano. One derailment or explosive spill would lower our property values in addition to any human injury or material damage to structures. Our small towns in SLO County do not have the budget to handle infrastructure repair at the level an explosion could cause. How would businesses and homeowners obtain loans to repair homes and rebuild business sites? Again, corporations are slow to reach to financially compensate for losses.

I urge rejection of this Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project because of the immediate public health issues caused by unavoidable increased particulates and toxic chemicals such as sulfur dioxide in our air. Additionally the possibility

of an explosive derailment in a residential area is a risk that our SLO County towns should not have to take.

Sincerely,

Mona Pastor

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